

Abstract 232

TITLE: Prevention and Control of Hepatitis C Virus Infection (HCV): Integrating Education, Testing and Counseling into Existing Public Health Programs

AUTHORS: E Alvarado, J Buffington, E Mast, L Moyer, W Hodgson

ISSUE: Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is the most common blood borne infection in the United States. An estimated 3.9 million Americans have been infected with HCV, most of whom are chronically infected and might not be aware of this. Education targeting health care providers and persons at risk for HCV infection is essential at the community level in order to encourage prevention, testing, counseling, and possible medical management.

SETTING: Existing Public Health Programs.

ISSUE PRESENTED: Integrating HCV prevention and control into existing HIV programs. The existing infrastructure for HIV counseling and testing may be an important place to begin such campaigns. Information will focus on using epidemiologic information to target community education campaigns for health care providers and the public.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: To: 1) Understand the epidemiology of HCV infection; 2) Understand the current recommendations on counseling and testing persons at risk for infection; 3) Learn how to use epidemiologic information to target education campaigns; 4) Consider ways of incorporating HCV education into existing HIV prevention, testing and counseling programs.

FORMAT: Poster will display HCV Epidemiology, as well as barriers, recommendations and counseling messages for the prevention and control of HCV and HCV-related Chronic Disease. Poster will also provide information on available HCV education resources, campaigns, and potential settings for such campaigns.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Eduardo A. Alvarado

Address: NCID/Hepatitis, CDC
1600 Clifton Rd. NE, MS G37
Atlanta, GA 30333

Telephone: (404) 639-0877

Fax: (404) 639-1538

E-mail: eda5@cdc.gov